

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 14588 190107Z

64/53

ACTION EA-14

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/105 W

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O R 181114Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6663

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

S E C R E T BANGKOK 14588

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MAR, MCAP, LA, VN

SUBJECT: NORTH VIETNAME ADMITS PRESENCE OF NVA IN LAOS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER "THE NATION" FRONT
PAGED SEPTEMBER 18 COMMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO THE NORTH
VIETNAMESE PRESS ATTACHE (PA) IN VIENTIANE. THE
ATTACHE ADMITTED TO AN ENGLISH JOURNALIST, PETER
KEMP, NOT ONLY THAT NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVA)
UNITS WERE IN LAOS, BUT ALSO THAT THEY WOULD BE WITH-
DRAWN. THE PA SAID THAT ALL FOREIGN TROOPS IN LAOS
WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE AND IS QUOTED AS LISTING THESE
FOREIGN TROOPS AS "FIRST, THE UNITED STATES FORCES;
SECONDLY THE THAI (VOLUNTEER) FORCES; AND THIRDLY THE
NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES." WHEN KEMP REACTED TO THE

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ADMISSION OF NVA PRESENCE IN LAOS, THE ARTICLE CONTINUED,

THE PA IS QUOTED AS REAFFIRMING THAT HE DID LIST THE
NVA.

BEGIN CLASSIFIED.

2. JOURNALIST KEMP CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY BANGKOK THAT ON
SEPTEMBER 13 HE WAS GRANTED AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PA
OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE EMBASSY IN VIENTIANE AND THAT THE
PA DID INCLUDE THE NVA IN A LIST OF FOREIGN TROOPS
THAT MUST LEAVE LAOS. WHEN KEMP REACHED TO THE CANDID
ADMISSION, THE PA CONFIRMED "YES, I MEAN NORTH
VIETNAMESE." HE ADDED THAT NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS
WOULD LEAVE LAOS WITHIN SIXTY DAYS AFTER FORMATION OF
THE COALITION GOVERNMENT. KEMP MENTIONED THAT THE
AMERICAN PRESS ATTACHE IN VIENTIANE RECALLED A SIMILAR
ADMISSION TWO WEEKS AGO TO A NEW YORK TIME CORRESPONDENT.
THE TIMES, HOWEVER, DID NOT SEE FIT TO PUBLISH THE STORY.
KEMP SAID THAT HIS LONDON BASED NEWSPAPER ALSO INFORMED
HIM THAT IT WOULD NOT RUN THE STORY. THE NORTH
VIETNAMESE ARE OBVIOUSLY HAVING TROUBLE DISSEMINATING
WHAT SEEMS TO BE AN IMPORTANT POLICY DECISION. END
CLASSIFIED.
UNGER

SECRET

NNN

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